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In the parent application to this case, the Examiner rejected the claims over art showing vinyl ether compounds. Applicants respectfully traverse on the following reasoning.

Applicants' claims as now in this case are directed to adhesive compositions that are a mixture of vinyl ether compounds containing polar functionality (carbamate, thiocarbamate and urea) and maleimide compounds. Applicants believe the closest prior art is US 6,034,194 and 6,034,195. These patents disclose compositions containing maleimides and vinyl compounds that do not contain polar functionality.

Example 5 in applicants' specification compares two adhesive compositions containing maleimide and the inventive vinyl compounds containing polar functionality with a composition containing maleimide and dimer divinyl ether (DDVE). DDVE is the vinyl compound disclosed in this prior art and it does not contain polar functionality. The last table in Example 5 on page 11 shows that the vinyl ether compounds containing the polar functionality have superior adhesive strength. Applicants urge the Examiner to the conclusion that this unexpected result obviates the rejection.

Applicants request the Examiner to consider the application in light of the above argument and solicit an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted



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